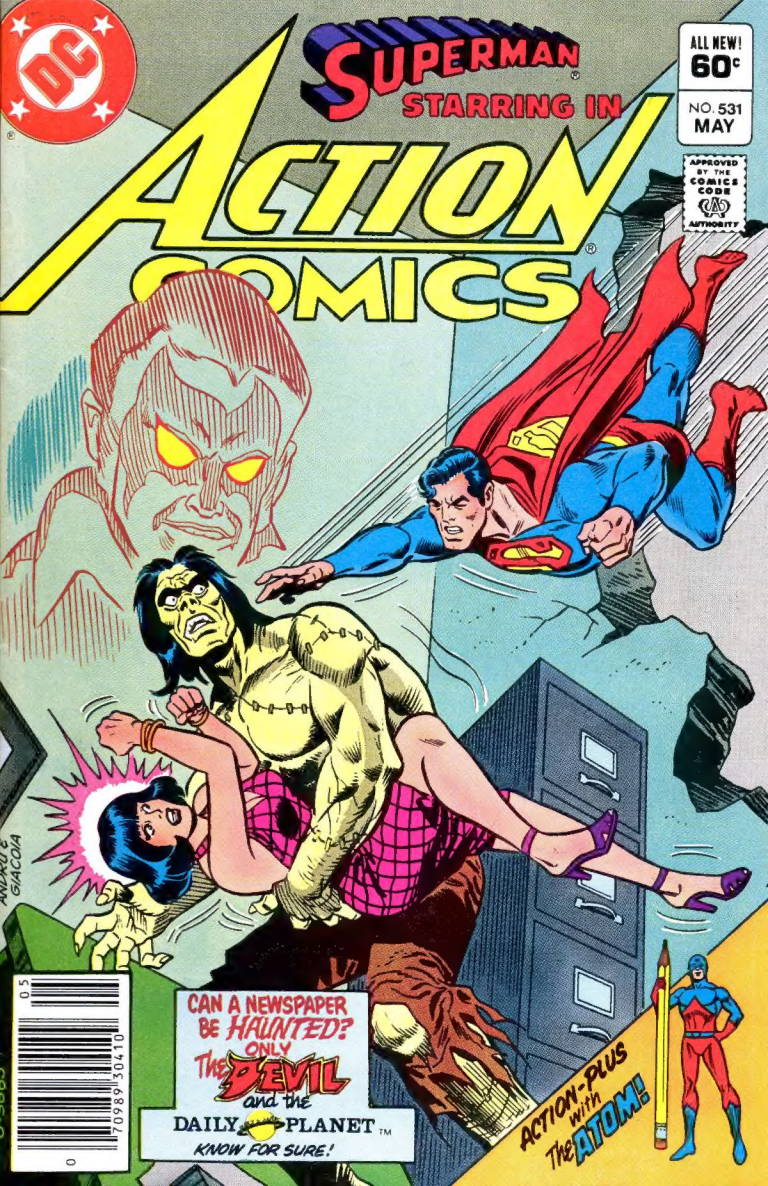
DC
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW!
60¢
NO. 531
MAY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ANDRUS GIACOIA
CAN A NEWSPAPER BE HAUNTED? ONLY THE DEVIL and the DAILY PLANET™ KNOW FOR SURE!
ACTION-PLUS with THE ATOM!

SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THE DEVIL...
THE EIGHTH FLOOR BOARDROOM OF THE GALAXY BROADCASTING BUILDING...
I SUMMONED YOU ALL HERE TO MEET THE PRESIDENT OF THE MAXMAN PUBLISHING CHAIN, MR. MORT WAXMAN.
ONCE WE'VE SIGNED THE PAPERS, MORT WILL BE THE DAILY PLANET'S NEW PUBLISHER.
GOOD TA MEET YA! GOOD TA MEET YA!
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN SAVES CITY!
WE'RE GONNA SAVE THIS DYING OLD RELIC, YOU CAN BELIEVE IT!
WE'RE GONNA BRING THIS PAPER OUT OF THE DARK AGES AND RIGHT INTO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY!
JUST LOOK AT THESE STODGY OLD HEADLINES-- "SUPERMAN CAPTURES BRAINIAC!" BORING! BORING! BORING!!
NOW THIS IS THE WAY I'LL DO THINGS! "SUPERMAN'S SIX SEXY SECRETS!" A REAL GRABBER, RIGHT?
MARV WOLFMAN • JOE STATON • FRANK McLAUGHLIN
WRITER PENCILLER INKER
BEN ODA - LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO - COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ - EDITOR
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN'S SIX SEXY SECRETS!
DAILY PLANET
SUPERMAN CAPTURES BRAINIAC!
AH, YES, I'M GOING TO MAKE THE PLANET A REAL NEWSPAPER AGAIN!
THIS IS AWFUL, PERRY.
CLARK, I KNOW IT! SO YEARS IN THIS BUSINESS! MAYBE IT'S TIME TO RETIRE!
MAYBE I COULD SELL ALUMINUM SIDING?
...AND THE DAILY PLANET!

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TODAY, NOBODY WANTS TO READ ALL THAT DULL NEWS!
THEY WANT FEATURES! GOSSIP! AND ON PAGE THREE-- A PICTURE OF SOME SEXY STARLET IN A BIKINI!
EVERYONE LOVES THAT.
I DON'T.
HAK!
COUGH! COUGH!
HEH-HEH. GOOD KIDDER, LOIS. NOW WE GET RID OF THOSE USELESS WASHINGTON AND WORLD-NEWS COLUMNS...
... AND REPLACE 'EM WITH UFO COVERAGE, WEIGHT-CONTROL NEWS, WHAT'S UP WITH SUZANNE SOMERS--
NO, STRIKE THAT! SHE'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS, LANE. YOU FIND OUT WHO'S THIS YEAR'S BLONDE.
UFO REPORT!
Hollywood HI-LITES
AND AS THE MEETING FINALLY DRAGS TO A SORRY END...
WE USED TO BE THE BEST PAPER IN TOWN.
WAXMAN'S GOING TO TURN US INTO A SIXTH-RATE "ENQUIRER"-- IF THAT ISN'T ALREADY REDUNDANT.
IT'S THE DEATH OF THE DAILY PLANET, CHIEF. THE DEATH OF THE DAILY PLANET...
JIMMY OLSEN'S CRY ECHOES THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF THE GALAXY BUILDING...
IT FILTERS DOWN THROUGH THE FLOORS, DOWN TO THE SUB-BASEMENT COMPUTER-CONTROLLED PRESSES THAT EACH DAY PRINT OUT THREE MILLION COPIES OF WHAT WAS ONCE METROPOLIS' GREATEST PAPER...
JIMMY'S WORDS CAN STILL BE HEARD HERE AS THE PRESSES BEGIN TO SHIMMER WITH AN UNEARTHLY, SPECTRAL LIGHT...
... THAT SEEMS TO TWIST AND TAKE SHAPE...
... INTO A THING LONG DEAD.
2

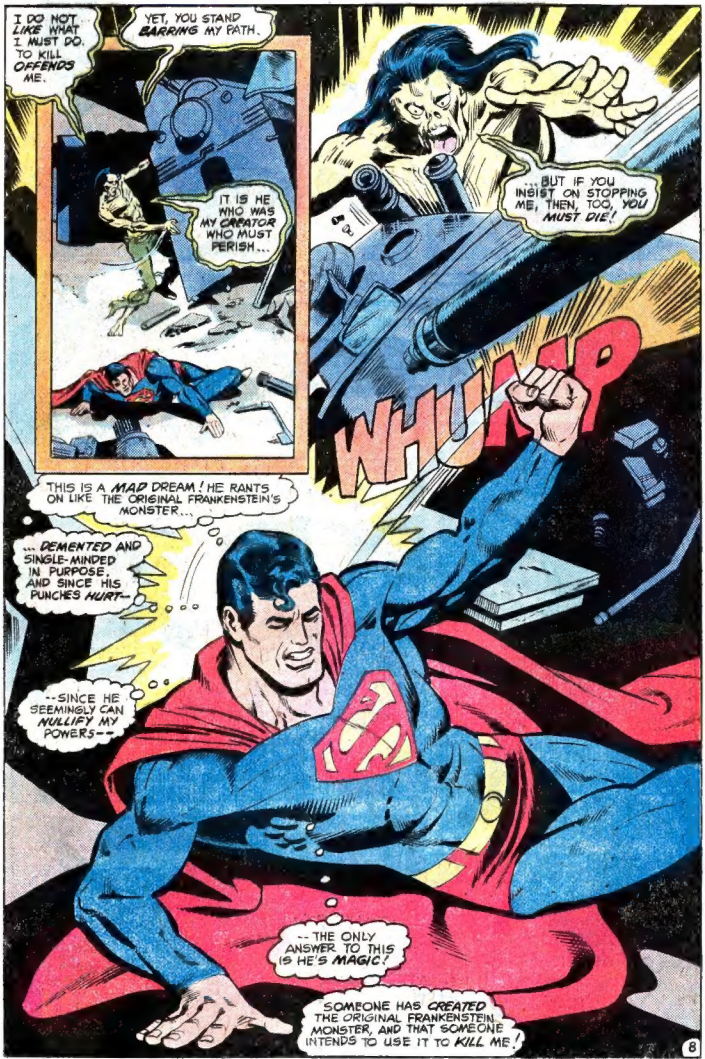
WHILE ABOVE...
THE ELEVATOR'S STUCK? BUT THE REPAIRMAN WAS HERE JUST LAST WEEK.
EVERYTHING'S CRUMBLING APART ALL AT ONCE.
LORD, THAT WAXMAN'S DISGUSTING; HE HAS ALL THE TASTE OF SOUR MILK!
HMMM, THE ALARM ISN'T WORKING; SOMETHING IS WRONG.
ONLY MY X-RAY VISION INDICATES EVERYTHING'S WORKING.
HOLD ON, WE'RE MOVING AGAIN.
HUNH? WE BYPASSED THE LOBBY!
THIS IS THE PLANET'S RECORDS ROOM. OUR BACKDATES ARE KEPT HERE ON MICROFILM.
THUNDERATION! I HAVEN'T BEEN DOWN HERE IN AGES!
I USED TO COME HERE ALL THE TIME, CHIEF -- WHEN YOU FIRST HIRED ME.
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S A MOCK-UP OF THE VERY FIRST PLANET EDITION -- WHEN WE WERE JUST A FOUR-SHEETER!
WE HAD TROUBLE EVEN THEN -- JEREMIAH ODETS, THE PRINTER'S APPRENTICE, DIED THAT FIRST DAY WHEN A PAPER ROLL FELL ON HIM.
ODETS WAS ONLY A KID, BUT HE ALSO DID PASTE-UPS, WROTE COPY, EVEN COMPOSED OUR FIRST HEADLINE.
JIMMY, YOU SEEM RATHER WELL-VERSED IN THE PLANET'S HISTORY!
I SURE AM, CLARK. I STUDIED UP ON IT WHEN I WAS A CUB REPORTER.
BESIDES, I WAS INTERESTED IN ODETS. WE HAVE THE SAME INITIALS -- J.O.
WELL, THE ELEVATOR MAY BE BROKEN, BUT THE STAIRS WILL GET US OUT OF HERE. LET'S GO!
3

BUT ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR...
EDGE, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS ELEVATOR?
ARE YOU SELLING ME A BROKEN-DOWN BUILDING?
WAXMAN, LET ME REMIND YOU YOU'RE NOT BUYING THE GALAXY BUILDING, JUST THE DAILY PLANET...
...AND YOU'RE LEASING SPACE FROM US, REMEMBER?
I DON'T LIKE THIS, EDGE...
...NO MORE THAN I LIKE YOUR SNOBBISH STAFF!
I SAW HOW THEY WERE STARING AT ME.
THEY'RE PROUD OF THEIR PAPER, WAXMAN. THE PLANET'S BEEN THE BEST.
AND IT'S LOST MONEY THREE YEARS IN A ROW! YOU REMEMBER THAT, EDGE.
ALSO REMEMBER YOUR STOCKHOLDERS WANT YOU TO SELL IT.
AND, AS OF TOMORROW, YOU AND YOUR STAFF CAN TAKE THEIR PAPER AND STUFF IT.
I'M GOING TO DESIGN A DAILY PLANET THE PEOPLE WILL BUY!
AND SPEAKING OF THE PLANET STAFF...
THIS IS STRANGE. THE DOOR TO THE STAIRS WAS SEALED TIGHT. IT SHOULDN'T BE!
MAYBE THE BUILDING DOESN'T LIKE WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE PAPER ANY MORE THAN WE DO!
AND SUDDENLY...
WHOOOOOOOOOOO
YOU HEAR THAT MOANING SOUND?
HEAR IT? CLARK, IT'S COMING FROM EVERYWHERE!
WHAT IS IT...?
THE PLANET WILL NEVER DIE... IT WILL NEVER DIE... IT WILL NEVER DIE....
OH, NO... LOOK!
G-GREAT SCOTT!
4
CONTINUED ON 21ST PAGE FOLLOWING

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT NOW, WAXMAN?
IT'S ONLY EIGHT STORIES DOWN.
ONLY EIGHT STORIES? EDGE, ARE YOU SADIST?
I DESPISE EXERCISE--!
GET OUT, WAXXMANNNNN! GET OUT, KILLERRRRR...
...HE FOLLOWS THROUGH...
MORT WAXMAN IS NOT A STUPID MAN. INDEED, WHEN THIS SELF-MADE MILLIONAIRE HEARS A LOGICAL SUGGESTION OFFERED...
...AS FAST AS HIS CHUBBY LEGS CAN CARRY HIM!
MEANWHILE...
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! WE'RE GOING IN CIRCLES!
NOT TO MENTION THAT STRANGE LIGHT WE SAW!
AND HEARD, PERRY. DON'T FORGET THAT!
THERE'S SOMETHING DOWN HERE.
WHERE ARE WE, EDGE? THIS ISN'T THE LOBBY.
THE LOBBY DOOR WOULDN'T OPEN, WAXMAN.
AH, LANE, WHITE, AND THE OTHERS...
YOU'RE IN THIS RATHER BIZARRE PREDICAMENT, TOO, I SEE!
NO WONDER YOU PEOPLE WANTED TO SELL THE PLANET! IT'S HAUNTED!
OH, COME NOW, MR. WAXMAN, SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS!
YOU WANT TO MAKE A BET ON THAT, KENT?
STAYING TOGETHER WON'T HELP US GET OUT OF HERE. I SAY WE SPLIT UP AND SEARCH AROUND.
5

FOR THE NEXT TEN MINUTES, THE PLANET-STAFFERS MOVE IN GROUPS OF TWO, AND AS WE LOOK IN ON CLARK KENT AND LOIS LANE...
YOU KNOW, LOIS, I'M NOT SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA.
IF THERE IS SOMETHING DOWN HERE, WE COULD BE HURT.
COME OFF IT, CLARK, WILL YOU?
YOU TALK LIKE A COWARD--
BUT YOU AND I BOTH KNOW YOU'RE NOT.
YOU'RE TOO GOOD A REPORTER TO PLAY THE FRIGHTENED SHEEP.
YOU'VE GOTTEN TOO MANY STORIES TO FEIGN FEAR.
WHY DO YOU ACT THIS WAY, CLARK?
I'M CERTAIN I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, LOIS. I AM AFRAID!
I'LL ACCEPT THAT, CLARK, BUT WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? EVERY SO OFTEN I FEEL SOMETHING FOR YOU--
--THEN, SUDDENLY YOU CHANGE! WE'RE FRIENDS, CLARK, GOOD FRIENDS.
WHY DO YOU TRY DRIVING ME MAD LIKE THIS? WHY DO YOU MAKE OUR FRIENDSHIP SO DIFFICULT TO KEEP UP?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, CLARK? WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, AND WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?
BUT BEFORE CLARK CAN REPLY...
WHY ARE YOU TWO HERE? WHY DO YOU HOUND ME LIKE THIS?
OH, MY GOD-- WHAT IS IT, CLARK?
SOME SORT OF CREATURE! I'VE GOT TO CHANGE...
6

CLARK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CLARK?
JUST SHOWING YOU I'M NOT A COWARD, LOIS!
YOU HUMANS ALWAYS HOUND ME...
...BUT THIS CREATURE I AM, THIS HIDEOUS MOCKERY PATCHED TOGETHER BY THE MADMAN, VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN--
--WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO PESTER ME AGAIN!
I HAVE MY DESTINY TO FULFILL, THAT OF SLAYING MY CREATOR--AND ANY FOOL WHO GETS IN MY WAY!
FRANKENSTEIN?
HE CALLS HIMSELF FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
FRANKENSTEIN WAS MERELY A CHARACTER OF FICTION!
BUT IT WILL TAKE SUPERMAN TO DEAL WITH THAT CREATURE OF FACT!
STRANGE, THIS ONE DOES LOOK LIKE THE CREATURE FROM SHELLEY'S NOVEL. HE EVEN TALKS AS THAT MONSTER DID.
IN THE NOVEL, THE MONSTER WAS A PATHETIC CREATURE BORN AND THRUST UPON A WORLD HE NEVER WANTED--
AGAIN THE HUMANS COME AFTER ME. CAN I NEVER BE LEFT ALONE TO CARRY OUT MY SAD DUTY?
SLAMM!
CAN I NEVER BE FREE FROM THIS HORROR OF LIFE?
HUH? HE HARDLY HIT ME, BUT HE SENT ME FLYING!
7


I DO NOT LIKE WHAT I MUST DO. TO KILL OFFENDS ME.
YET, YOU STAND BARRING MY PATH.
IT IS HE WHO WAS MY CREATOR WHO MUST PERISH...
...BUT IF YOU INSIST ON STOPPING ME, THEN, TOO, YOU MUST DIE!
WHUMP
THIS IS A MAD DREAM! HE RANTS ON LIKE THE ORIGINAL FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER...
... DEMENTED AND SINGLE-MINDED IN PURPOSE. AND SINCE HIS PUNCHES HURT--
--SINCE HE SEEMINGLY CAN NULLIFY MY POWERS--
--THE ONLY ANSWER TO THIS IS HE'S MAGIC!
SOMEONE HAS CREATED THE ORIGINAL FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER, AND THAT SOMEONE INTENDS TO USE IT TO KILL ME!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT FOR THE MAN OF STEEL TO FREE HIMSELF. BUT BY THAT TIME...
THE MONSTER'S GONE! AS QUICKLY AS THAT GHOST VANISHED!
WHO'S BEHIND THIS? MXYZPTLK? LORD SATANIS?
BUT WHILE THE ACTION ACE MUSES OVER THE POSSIBILITIES...
LOOK THERE, JIMMY! THAT HURTS ME. THOSE ARE TRUCKS THAT WOULD SHIP TOMORROW'S PAPER...
BUT THERE WON'T BE A NEWSPAPER TOMORROW, WILL THERE?
WE'RE JUST STUCK HERE ALONG WITH YESTERDAY'S RETURNS.
WITH WAXMAN IN CHARGE, I WONDER IF WE'RE ALL JUST OLD NEWS!
DAILY PLANET
HOLD IT, CHIEF. THE LATE SHIFT WILL FIND US, DON'T YOU WORRY.
I DON'T KNOW, JIMMY. I DESPAIR. I HAVEN'T YOUR OPTIMISM.
OH, MAYBE I'M TOO OLD, MAYBE IT IS TIME TO RETIRE.
AW, YOU STILL HAVE A FEW YEARS TO GO BEFORE YOU'RE THAT OLD, CHIEF.
OLSEN?
YES, CHIEF?
HOW OLD WILL YOU BE BEFORE YOU STOP CALLING ME CHIEF?
NO MORNING EDITION, PERRY? DON'T BE SO CERTAIN OF THAT...
EVEN NOW, IN DARKENED OFFICES, VIDEO-DISPLAY TERMINALS ERUPT WITH ELECTRONIC LIFE...
...AS NEWS STORIES SOMEHOW COMPOSE THEMSELVES--
--WHILE, OUTSIDE THE PLANET OFFICES...
HEY, SLOW DOWN, CARL. WE'RE EARLY.
I KNOW IT, FRANCIE, BUT I ALSO KNOW WAXMAN'S TAKIN' OVER TOMORROW...
...AND THIS REPORTER'S GOING TO SHOW HIM THAT SOME OF US ARE IN HIS CORNER.
BUT YOU DESPISE WAXMAN!
YEAH, BUT I LOVE MY JOB! C'MON, LET'S HURRY!
9

CARL TRACY AND FRANCIE WILLIAMS...
GALAXY COMMUNIC
TWO REPORTERS HURRYING TO THEIR LATE-NIGHT JOBS...
...NOT THAT HURRYING WILL GET THEM ANYWHERE THIS NIGHT.
AH, WILLIAMS AND TRACY. SORRY, BOTH OF YOU, THE PAPER'S CLOSED FOR THE NIGHT.
MR. WHITE? BUT THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
WAXMAN WANTS US TO MISS A DAY-- TO REDESIGN THE PLANET. YOU TWO TAKE OFF, WILL YOU?
CONFUSED, TRACY AND WILLIAMS LEAVE. BUT AT THAT SAME MOMENT IN THE PLANET'S SUB-BASEMENT...
YOU HEAR THAT, CHIEF?
YOU THINK I'M DEAF, OLSEN? IT SOUNDED LIKE A GIRL!
IT WASN'T LOIS! I'M CERTAIN OF THAT! BUT WHO ELSE IS TRAPPED DOWN HERE WITH US?
OBVIOUSLY, OLSEN, WE'LL HAVE TO FIND OUT! HURRY UP, YOU YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPER!
FRANTICALLY, THE TWO RACE DOWN THE HALLS, UNTIL...
OH, THANK GOODNESS SOMEONE HAS COME TO SAVE ME!
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE, YOU KNOW. THEY WANTED TO HURT ME.
PUFF, PUFF! I--I DON'T THINK I CAN RUN LIKE I USED TO.
TAKE IT EASY, WHITE. YOU'RE NOT A YOUNG MAN ANY MORE.
PERRY, SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER HERE BEFORE.
10

OH, NO! THEY'VE COME BACK! THEY WANT ME!
COME ON, MISS, WHO'S BACK AND WHO WANTS YOU?
LOOK BEHIND YOU, SIR. DON'T YOU SEE THEM?
I--I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
WH-WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY-- WHAT IN BLAZES ARE THEY?
PERRY--?
I SEE THEM, JIMMY. USE YOUR SIGNAL-WATCH AND CALL FOR SUPERMAN!
THERE'S NO TIME, PERRY.
THEY'D BE ON US IN A SECOND.
I'VE GOT TO TRY STOPPING THEM ON MY OWN!
HUH? THEY'RE DISAPPEARING?!
P-PERRY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE-- FAST!
11

IN THE MEANTIME...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN TOSSED INTO SOME GOTHIC NOVEL.
FIRST GHOSTS, THEN FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER--
--AND MY X-RAY VISION PICKED UP THAT GIRL AND THOSE DEMONS THAT WERE THREATENING JIMMY AND PERRY.
NO ONE'S BEEN HURT YET, AND SOMEHOW I GET THE FEELING NO ONE WILL BE.
BUT WHAT IS GOING ON-- EH?
STRANGE ELDRITCH SMOKE CURLING AROUND ME...
...IT SEEMS TO BE PULLING ME SOMEWHERE!
WHY DON'T I LET IT TAKE ME FOR A RIDE, THEN, AND HOPE IT TAKES ME TO THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS.
THE METROPOLIS MARVEL NO LONGER RESISTS AS HE IS DRAGGED THROUGH THE PLANET CORRIDORS... INDEED, RESISTANCE WOULD BE FUTILE AT BEST...
...BECAUSE THIS NIGHT THERE ARE FORCES AT WORK THAT ARE BEYOND SUPERMAN'S MIGHTY POWERS...
12

...FORCES THAT FINALLY BRING SUPERMAN TO REST...
LOIS? THE MONSTER'S GOT LOIS--?
I HAVE NOT HARMED HER. SHE IS BUT A POOR VICTIM, EVEN AS I AM!
TALK ABOUT VICTIMS, SUPERMAN. LOOK AT THIS ONE!
I SAW HER, JIM. SHE'S RIGHT OUT OF AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY GOTHIC NOVEL...
...AND FRANKENSTEIN IS FROM THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY. DEMONS, GHOSTS... THEY GO EVEN FURTHER BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PAL? DON'T KEEP IT TO YOURSELF.
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
MAGIC, DEVIL-HAIR... MAGIC HAS BROUGHT ME TO THIS MAD, BIZARRE WORLD.
WHOOOOOWWOOO
MAGIC? PERHAPS THAT IS THE ONLY ANSWER HERE. MAGIC WHICH SUDDENLY FLARES WITH LIFE...
MAGIC WHICH SUDDENLY CREATES A COLD, KEEN WIND THAT HOWLS THROUGH THIS WINDOWLESS SUB-BASEMENT...

A WIND THAT SEEMINGLY BLOWS NO GOOD...
IF THIS IS SOME SORT OF BAD JOKE, EDGE, I'LL SUE!
NOW, NOW, MR. WAXMAN, LET'S TAKE THIS EASY, SHALL WE.
HOW DID I GET HERE?
BAM!
I THINK THIS WHOLE PRESENTATION HAS BEEN ARRANGED JUST FOR YOU!
WAXMAN, IF YOU THINK I'VE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS, YOUR HEAD IS AS FAT AS YOUR WAISTLINE.
HOLD IT! EVERYONE, GET OVER HERE AND LOOK!
THE ENTIRE PAPER IS SOMEHOW BEING WRITTEN RIGHT ON THE V.D.T.'S!
THE ENGLISH IS A LITTLE ARCHAIC AND STILTED, BUT SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE IS SETTING THE PAPER FOR PRINTING!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THIS IS A REAL SCOOP!
SCOOP? IS THAT ALL YOU PEOPLE THINK ABOUT? NEWS! SCOOPS? BAH!
DON'T YOU PEOPLE KNOW WHAT PUBLISHING IS ALL ABOUT? WE'RE HERE TO MAKE MONEY!
EVERYONE, LOOK-- THE MONSTER AND THE GIRL-- THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!
JUST AS I THOUGHT THEY WOULD, JIMMY!
AS UNBELIEVABLE AS IT MAY SOUND, I WAS RIGHT!

BUT JUST THEN...
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! THE V.D.T. IS GLOWING!
NOT CAESAR'S GHOST, PERRY--BUT YOU'RE NOT FAR FROM RIGHT!
MY FRIENDS, I AM SORRY FOR FRIGHTENING YOU... I AM SORRY IF ANY ONE OF YOU WAS HARMED...
...BUT MY LOVE FOR THIS NEWSPAPER IS TOO GREAT TO LET IT DIE...
...TO LET IT BE CORRUPTED SO BY DESTROYING ALL OUR HOPES.
I HAVE WRITTEN TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER AND HEADLINE, AND FOR THAT I GIVE THANKS...MY GREATEST DREAM HAS BEEN ATTAINED...
AT ONCE I HAVE WRITTEN FOR THE NEWSPAPER I WORKED SO HARD TO HELP CREATE...AND HAVE SAVED THAT PAPER FROM A FATE FAR WORSE THAN DEATH...
I DON'T THINK I'M NEEDED HERE ANY LONGER.
UNHH...
SUPERMAN, DON'T! PLEASE DON'T GO!
WAIT A SECOND... I KNOW YOU, DON'T I?
YOU'RE HIM, AREN'T YOU?
MORTON WAXMAN, YOU HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO BE A SOUL FILLED WITH GREED AND NO ART...
DO NOT DARE DESPOIL THIS NEWSPAPER, OR I SHALL RISE ONCE MORE FROM MY GRAVE!
I'M LEAVING! I'M LEAVING! I'LL NEVER COME BACK!

THEN MY MISSION HERE HAS BEEN FULFILLED, AND I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE.
GOODBYE, MY FRIENDS ... GOODBYE...
...AND THANKS ONCE MORE FOR PERMITTING ME THE GREATEST THRILL OF THE CENTURIES-LONG EXISTENCE...
HE'S GONE, BUT WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THANKING US? AND WHO WAS HE ANYWAY?
I THINK I--
UNNHHHH...
CLARK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?
UNHH... I WAS HIT BY THAT MONSTER. I JUST RECOVERED.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS?
IT FIGURES, KENT. YOU'RE ALWAYS OUT WHILE THE WORLD MARCHES ON. HOW YOU EVER BECAME A TOP REPORTER IS BEYOND ME.
AND NOW, EDGE, WE HAVE BUSINESS TO CONCLUDE.
WHAT? DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM, WAXMAN?
AND JUST IN CASE YOU DIDN'T, I WOULDN'T SIGN OVER THE PLANET TO YOU IF YOU WERE THE LAST OBNOXIOUS PUBLISHER ON EARTH!
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT PRODUCING A NEWSPAPER. ALL YOU'RE INTERESTED IN IS THE BOTTOM LINE-- CASH!
YEA, MORGAN EDGE!
THE PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS DESERVE A GOOD NEWSPAPER, AND I'LL FIGHT MY STOCKHOLDERS TO SEE THEY GET IT!
16

DOORS OPEN THEN, AND AFTER THE PLANET STAFF HAS MOVED TO PERRY WHITE'S OFFICE...
I'M SORRY, BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WAS THAT THING REALLY A GHOST, OR--
--OR OUR IMAGINATIONS RUNNING WILD? I WISH I KNEW, LOIS.
OH MR. WHITE...
...MR. WHITE, I'M EARL KRANTZ, ONE OF THE PRINTERS.
I FOUND THIS TEAR-SHEET FOR THE FIRST PAGE ON THE PRESSES, BUT... I DON'T KNOW WHO PRINTED IT.
HOLD IT, CHIEF... LET ME SEE IT, PLEASE.
OH, MY... IT IS TRUE... NOW IT MAKES SENSE!
HE SENT ALL THOSE MONSTERS FROM HIS TIME TO SCARE WAXMAN INTO REVEALING HIMSELF!
JUST INCREDIBLE!
WELL, ARE YOU GOING TO LET US SEE THAT PAPER, OLSEN?
LOOK AT THE BYLINE, SIR... IT WAS WRITTEN BY JEREMIAH ODETS, THE PRINTER'S ASSISTANT WHO DIED THE NIGHT THE DAILY PLANET WAS BORN!
I GUESS HE LOVED THE PLANET SO MUCH, HE CAME BACK TO MAKE CERTAIN IT WOULDN'T DIE!
DAILY PLANET SAVED!
Proudly reported by Jeremiah Odets
PRINTER'S ASSISTANT... BY THUNDER, THEY USED TO BE CALLED BY ANOTHER NAME...
I BELIEVE THE TERM WAS --PRINTER'S DEVILS!
ONLY THIS WASN'T A DEVIL THAT WAS HAUNTING THE DAILY PLANET...
DAILY PLANET
THE DAILY PLANET SAVED!
...IT WAS AN ANGEL... THE PLANET'S VERY OWN GUARDIAN ANGEL!
NEXT ISSUE:
LOIS LANE JOINS THE H.I.V.E.?
SEE FOR YOURSELF ON MARCH 25! IT'S A DATE!

FROM A FALLEN FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RAY PALMER FASHIONED A LENS WHICH GAVE HIM THE ABILITY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE! AFTER LEARNING TO CONTROL HIS WEIGHT, AS WELL, HE DONNED HIS COSTUME OF THE TINY TITAN, BATTLING CRIME AS ...

The ATOM™

IT BEGINS WITH AN ENDING... AS AQUAMAN SWIMS AWAY AND RAY AND JEAN PALMER PREPARE FOR THE PLEASURE PORTION OF A "BUSINESS-AND-PLEASURE" CRUISE...

AMAZING! IN JUST A FEW SECONDS, AQUAMAN'S ONLY A DOT ON THE HORIZON!

MMMM... SPEAKING OF DOTS...

HONEY? WHAT'S SO INTERESTING DOWN BELOW--?

HUH? OH, SOMETHING IN THE WATER -- GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER...

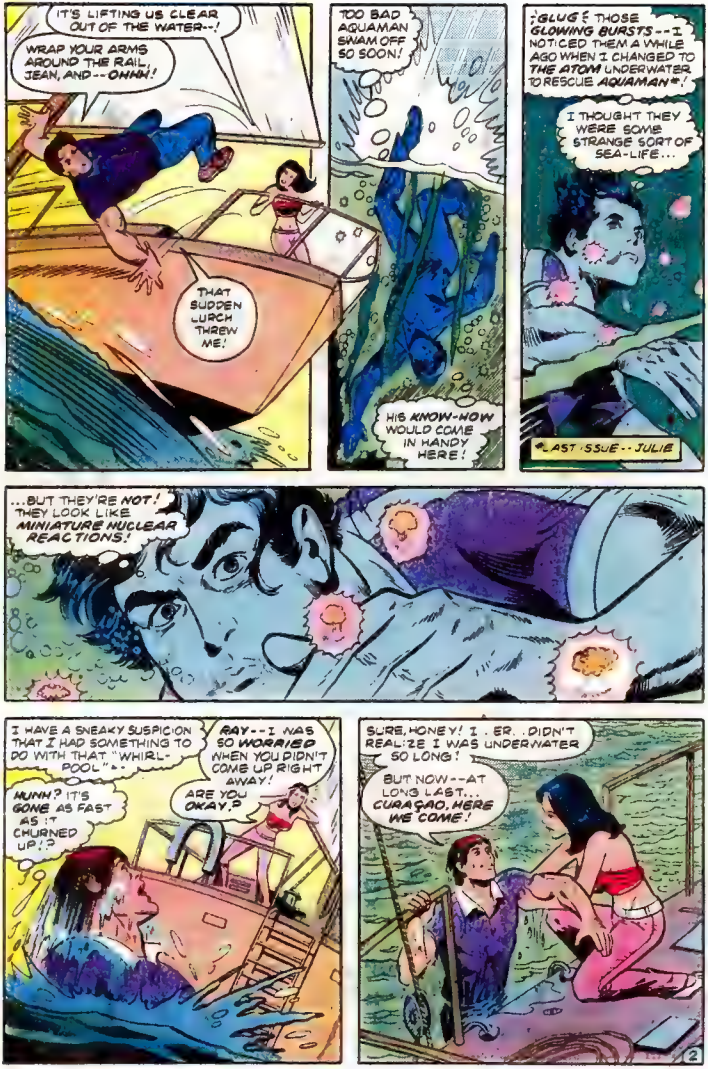
EEE!!!!

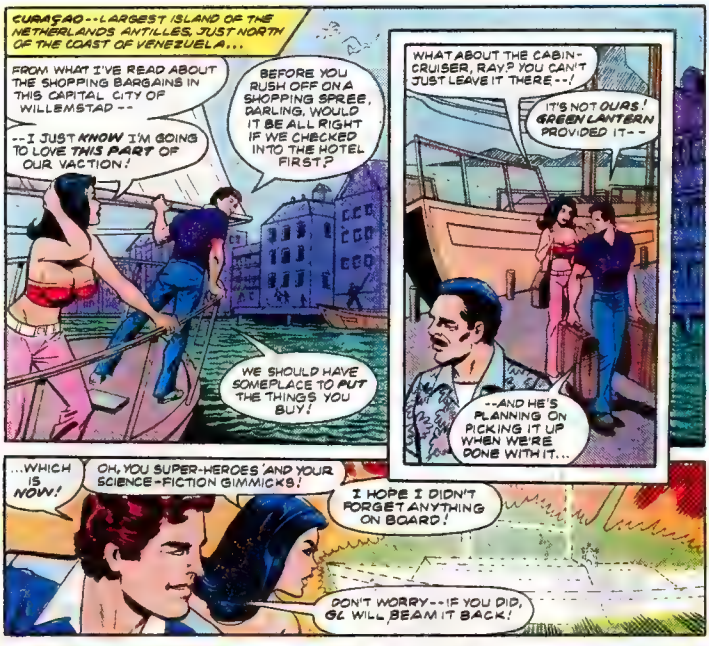
HANG ON, JEAN! IT'S GROWN INTO A WHIRLPOOL!

WONDERING WHY THE ATOM IS OUT HERE ON THE HIGH SEAS? DON'T WORRY -- HE'LL BE BACK ON DRY LAND SOON ENOUGH, FINDING THAT NO MATTER WHERE HE IS, THERE'S...

no time off for HEROES!

BOB ROZAKIS WRITER · ALEX SAVIUK PENCILLER · VINCE COLLETTA LETTER · SHELLY LEFEBMAN ASSISTANT · TOM ZICKO COLORIST · JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR

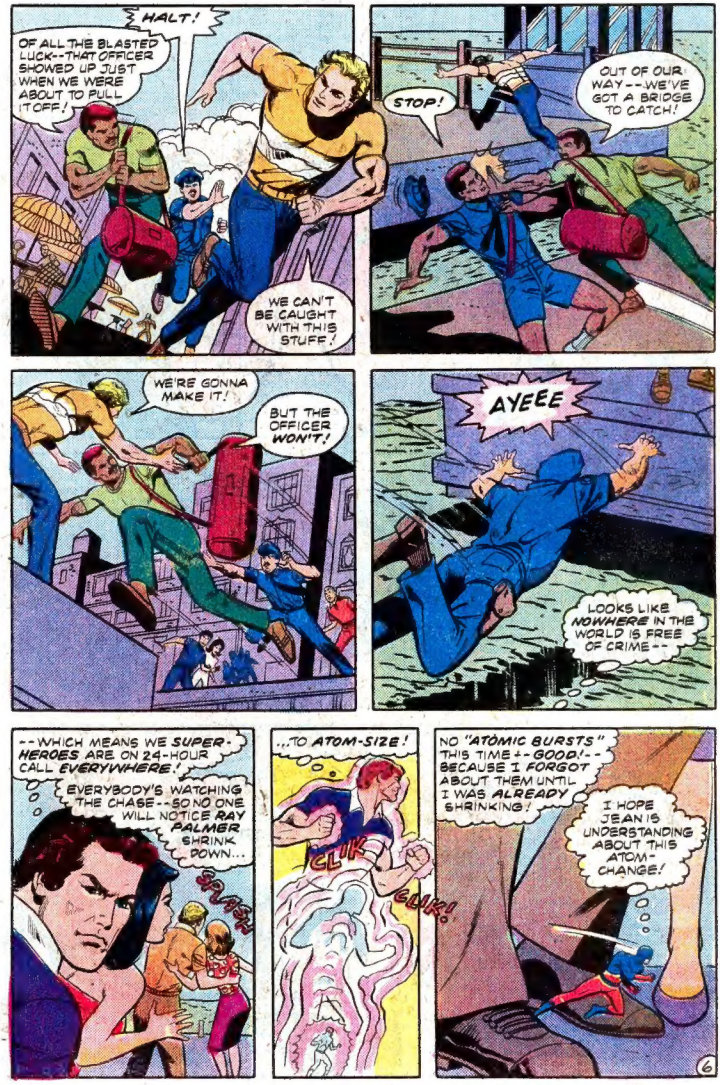

IT'S LIFTING US CLEAR OUT OF THE WATER--!
WRAP YOUR ARMS AROUND THE RAIL, JEAN, AND--OHHH!
THAT SUDDEN LURCH THREW ME!
TOO BAD AQUAMAN SWAM OFF SO SOON!
HIS KNOW-HOW WOULD COME IN HANDY HERE!
;GLUG! THOSE GLOWING BURSTS--I NOTICED THEM A WHILE AGO WHEN I CHANGED TO THE ATOM UNDERWATER TO RESCUE AQUAMAN*!
I THOUGHT THEY WERE SOME STRANGE SORT OF SEA-LIFE...
*LAST ISSUE--JULIE
...BUT THEY'RE NOT! THEY LOOK LIKE MINIATURE NUCLEAR REACTIONS!
I HAVE A SNEAKY SUSPICION THAT I HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT "WHIRL-POOL"...
HUHH? IT'S GONE AS FAST AS IT CHURNED UP!?
RAY--I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME UP RIGHT AWAY!
ARE YOU OKAY,?
SURE, HONEY! I..ER..DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS UNDERWATER SO LONG!
BUT NOW--AT LONG LAST... CURAÇAO, HERE WE COME!
2


CURAÇAO--LARGEST ISLAND OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, JUST NORTH OF THE COAST OF VENEZUELA...
FROM WHAT I'VE READ ABOUT THE SHOPPING BARGAINS IN THIS CAPITAL CITY OF WILLEMSTAD--
--I JUST KNOW I'M GOING TO LOVE THIS PART OF OUR VACTION!
BEFORE YOU RUSH OFF ON A SHOPPING SPREE, DARLING, WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF WE CHECKED INTO THE HOTEL FIRST?
WE SHOULD HAVE SOMEPLACE TO PUT THE THINGS YOU BUY!
WHAT ABOUT THE CABIN-CRUISER, RAY? YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT THERE--!
IT'S NOT OURS! GREEN LANTERN PROVIDED IT--
--AND HE'S PLANNING ON PICKING IT UP WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH IT...
...WHICH IS NOW!
OH, YOU SUPER-HEROES AND YOUR SCIENCE-FICTION GIMMICKS!
I HOPE I DIDN'T FORGET ANYTHING ON BOARD!
DON'T WORRY--IF YOU DID, GL WILL BEAM IT BACK!

SHORTLY, AS THE VACATIONERS CHECK INTO THEIR HOTEL...
WHY, RAY PALMER--WHAT A SURPRISE SEEING YOU HERE!
ARE YOU KIDDING, TOM? YOU KNOW VERY WELL "MR. NUKE OF IVY TOWN" WOULDN'T MISS OUT ON THIS!
ER... I'LL SEE YOU FELLAS LATER...
RAYMOND!
UH-OH! I'M IN TROUBLE WHEN SHE CALLS ME "RAYMOND"!
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A BUSINESS-AND-PLEASURE TRIP...AND THAT THE BUSINESS WAS OVER!
THAT BUILD-UP YOU GAVE ME ABOUT THE ATTRACTIONS OF CURAÇAO--I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE FELLOW NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE ANYWAY?

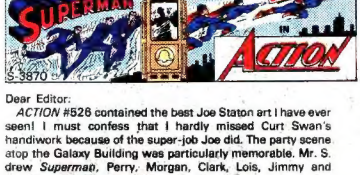
WELL, UMM--THEY'RE HERE FOR A CONVENTION...
...AND I DIDN'T MENTION IT BECAUSE I KNOW HOW BORING YOU FIND CONVENTIONS!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO ENJOY OURSELVES...
...STARTING RIGHT NOW BY TAKING IN THE SIGHTS!
I DON'T HAVE TO BE AT A LECTURE FOR THREE HOURS!
LET'S HEAD FOR "QUEEN EMMA"--THE FLOATING BRIDGE!
DARLING, LOOK WHO'S HERE--RAY PALMER!
ED NARDELLO--IT'S BEEN YEARS!
HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MADELINE!
AND YOU, TOO, RAY!
ED, MADELINE--THIS IS MY WIFE JEAN!
I ASSUME YOU TWO ARE HERE FOR THE SAME REASON WE ARE?
OH YEAH!
DON'T YOU FIND THESE CONVENTIONS A BORE, MADELINE--
--I MEAN, WOULDN'T YOU RATHER GO SHOPPING AND LEAVE THE MEN TO THEIR LECTURES?
NOT REALLY, JEAN! YOU SEE, I'M THE PHYSICIST IN THE FAMILY!
BUT I'M SURE ED WOULD LOVE TO DO ANYTHING BESIDES LISTEN TO "NUKERS" LIKE RAY AND ME!
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

LISTEN, WE'VE GOT SOME THINGS TO DO! HOW ABOUT IF WE MEET FOR DINNER? WE'RE STAYING AT THE PARADISE ISLES...
SOUNDS GOOD, RAY-- BUT WE'LL HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO TALK SHOP, OR OUR SPOUSES WILL POZE OFF!
TALK ABOUT PUTTING MY FOOT IN MY MOUTH-- RIGHT UP TO THE KNEECAP!
DON'T BE UPSET HONEY! IT WAS A NATURAL MISTAKE!
AFTER ALL, THERE AREN'T THAT MANY WOMEN NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS!
THERE AREN'T THAT MANY WOMEN ATTORNEYS EITHER--
"AND YOU KNOW HOW UPSET I GET WHEN PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED THAT I'M ONE!
STILL, I FEEL LIKE A--WHAT'S THAT?!
AAHHRREEEEEEE
A SIREN TO SIGNAL THE BRIDGE IS GOING TO SWING OPEN! THERE'S A CRUISE-SHIP COMING IN!
RESTLESS "QUEEN EMMA" OPENS FOR SHIPS AS MANY AS TWENTY TIMES A DAY!
TWEE TWEE
WONDER WHAT THAT SOUND IS?
I CAN ANSWER THAT ONE, RAY-- A POLICE WHISTLE!
5


HALT!
OF ALL THE BLASTED LUCK--THAT OFFICER SHOWED UP JUST WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO PULL IT OFF!
WE CAN'T BE CAUGHT WITH THIS STUFF!
STOP!
OUT OF OUR WAY--WE'VE GOT A BRIDGE TO CATCH!
WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT!
BUT THE OFFICER WON'T!
AYEEE
LOOKS LIKE NOWHERE IN THE WORLD IS FREE OF CRIME--
--WHICH MEANS WE SUPER-HEROES ARE ON 24-HOUR CALL EVERYWHERE!
EVERYBODY'S WATCHING THE CHASE--SO NO ONE WILL NOTICE RAY PALMER SHRINK DOWN...
SPLASH
...TO ATOM-SIZE!
CLIK
CLIK!
NO "ATOMIC BURSTS" THIS TIME!--GOOD!--BECAUSE I FORGOT ABOUT THEM UNTIL I WAS ALREADY SHRINKING!
I HOPE JEAN IS UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS ATOM-CHANGE!
6

NOW THAT I'VE SWITCHED TO "FEATHER-WEIGHT," I CAN USE A HELPING HAND!
PSST... GUARD! PLEASE PICK ME UP!
DIO! A TINY TALKING MAN!?
IF YOU WANT ME TO CATCH THOSE FELLOWS --THROW ME ONTO THE BRIDGE!
WHY, UH--
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE--BUT THOSE MEN?
ALL RIGHT!
ATOMS AWAY!
I CAN RIDE THE TRADE WINDS FASTER THAN THEY CAN RUN--
--UNTIL I GET WHERE I WANT TO BE AND SWITCH TO HEAVYWEIGHT...
...AND GET THE DROP ON THIS ONE!
UHHNN!
THWAHNG!
OOOPF!
CLUMSY! TRIPPING OVER YOUR OWN FEET THAT WAY!
I'LL TAKE UNSEEN CREDIT FOR THAT!

I'LL PICK UP THE BAG AND--YEEOOP!--SO HEAVY I CAN'T LIFT IT??
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN BEING ABLE TO CHANGE MY WEIGHT FROM NEAR ZERO TO 180 POUNDS IS LOTS OF FUN!
WE SUPER-HEROES HAVE TO GET OUR KICKS WHEN WE CAN!
I'LL USE BOTH HANDS--
THWOK
--SO WILL I!
WONDER WHAT KIND OF LOOT THOSE TWO BADDIES WERE TRYING TO GET AWAY WITH?
GOLD?
JEWELRY?
MONEY?
THE LAST THING I'D EVER GUESS! A NUCLEAR DEVICE!
ZZZIP
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE--IT'S BEEN ACTIVATED!
I KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THESE THINGS TO DEACTIVATE IT BY SHRINKING DOWN INSIDE IT--
--BUT IF MY SHRINKING DOES WHAT IT DID IN THE WATER, I COULD DETONATE THE DEVICE...
...AND BLOW CURAÇAO RIGHT OFF THE MAP!
AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION THAT CONFRONTS THE TINY TITAN IN NEXT ISSUE'S
CARNAVAL OF CATASTROPHE!



Dear Editor:

ACTION #526 contained the best Joe Staton art I have ever seen! I must confess that I hardly missed Curt Swan's handiwork because of the super-job Joe did. The party scene atop the Galaxy Building was particularly memorable. Mr. S. drew *Superman*, Perry, Morgan, Clark, Lois, Jimmy and President Reagan all very, very well.

Marv Wolfman reveals that *Superman* can't understand why some people use the special powers they possess for personal gain. It was about time we saw *Superman* saying something like, "Possessing special powers alone is already self-satisfying!" It showed us the way *Superman* thinks (and the way Marv answers questions).

I enjoyed *Superman* saving the little girl and the dialogue with her and her mother. But one thing that was taken too far was, after being continually taunted by Neutron, the Man of Steel says, "That tears it, Neutron—shut up! I'll find that bomb and when I do, I'll make you eat it!" Getting carried away and realizing it, Marv makes up for the outburst in the next panel as *Superman* thinks, "Okay, calm down! Making threats isn't my style!" Oh, brother!

DOMENIC ROMANO,
68 Ingrove Terrace,
Agincourt, Ont. M1W 2H2

Put it this way, Dom, Marv gave you a bit more insight into Superman than just the comments about using special powers. Under intense pressure, the Man of Steel reacts just as you or I would, but realizes it immediately and calms himself down!—BR

* * *

Dear Actioneers:

"The Man Who Murdered Metropolis" was an exceptional submission by Marv Wolfman. Joe Staton's art was, as always, highly stylized and a prodigious pleasure to peruse. In fact, I'm so pleased with *ACTION* #526 that I can only make two gripes. The first concerns *Superman's* abrupt (and slightly out of character) self-analysis while Neutron's bomb has less than an hour to detonate. A man's examination of his own personality should be done at his leisure, not when he has scant minutes to scour an entire city for a device that can destroy a city. It bordered on the ridiculous when at the bottom of page 10 *Superman* suddenly delivers a soul-searching soliloquy just as he's got only forty minutes to save Metropolis!

My second gripe is *Superman's* failure to call in his *Justice League* pals to help find the bomb. Many hands make light work and *Green Lantern* and *The Flash* could have aided the cause.

The back-up tale, "Air Wave Tunes In", was probably the best *AW* story Bob Rozakis has written all year and he's written some terrific ones, so that's no put-down. Bob integrated a strange new ability (mind-reading), some precious scenes of Hal in familiar school and home situations, and action that was so cleverly handled that I was smiling clear through the story. It's amazing how much humor, excitement and solid plotting BR can fit into eight pages!

MARK LAGASSE,
R.D. #1, Box 116,
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

It never fails to amaze us, Mark, how two readers can agree that they really enjoyed a story and then totally disagree about one particular part of it. Case in point, your reaction to Superman's soul-searching, as contrasted to Domenic's reaction above!

As for Superman calling in the JLAers, we could use the old excuse about them all being away from Earth on a mission, but it really comes down to the idea that Superman is the hero in this magazine and when we want to play up his heroics, we conveniently "forget" there are any other heroes in the world!—BR

Dear Sirs:

Once again, the best part of *ACTION COMICS* was the back-up story. Bob, you really handle *Air Wave* well. I didn't care for him much at first, but now I'm hooked. You have a talent for keeping his stories on a small-but-exciting scale, giving them a nice small-town atmosphere.

In fact, the *ACTION* back-up is quickly becoming my favorite thing from DC. But you might blow it next issue. It's bad enough *Aquaman* will have to share the eight pages with *Air Wave*, but why add another guest-star? If it's *Superman* or (especially) *The Atom*, I'll scream. I can only hope it's just a cameo appearance.

BILL WANDERESKI,
1251 N.W. 50th Avenue,
Lauderhill, FL 33313

As you've seen it was neither Superman nor the Atom, Bill, but Air Wave's cousin, Green Lantern! And we hope you'll agree that all three heroes managed to fit nicely into the eight pages!—BR

* * * * *

ACTION SHORT-SHOTS: "The Man Who Murdered Metropolis" was the best story yet, even if it did have the same title as the one in the January, 1974 issue of *SUPERMAN!*—STUART BRADSHAW, 547 Dreshertown Road, Dresher, PA 19025. *True, Stu, but every now and then a title is just as fitting for one story as another and is used again. There are other examples, and we'd guess that "When Titans Clash" is probably the winner in the most-used category!* *** Question. Hal (*Air Wave*) calls Hal (*GL*)'s brother Jack his "cousin". Isn't Jack *Air Wave's* uncle? (I thought Larry Jordan was *GL*'s brother!)—FRED TRAWEEK, 5624 Walter Street, Hammond, IN 46320. *No, Fred, Larry (Original Air Wave) Jordan was the brother of Hal (GL) and Jack's father, making him their uncle...and making Hal (AW) the first cousin of Hal (GL) and Jack! Okay?—Bob Rozakis*

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